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Attorney Ref. No. 10014832-1

REMARKS

A final Office Action, dated May 28, 2003, rejects pending claims 2, 8, 9, 21, 22, 24-31, 34-36, 38-41, and 43, objects to claims 32, 33, 37 and 42, and allows claims 11-14. Applicant seeks to cancel claims 2, 21, 29, and 41, and amend claims 8-9, 22, 24-28, 30-40, and 42 herein. Applicants maintain that the forgoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully request that these amendments be entered and the case passed to issuance.

Allowed Claims

Regarding allowed claims 11-14, applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing to the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicants believe that these claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has objected to claim 32, 33, 37, and 42 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but he has indicated that they would be allowed if rewritten in independent format with all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended these claims. Accordingly, claims 32, 33, 37 and 42 should now be in condition for allowance.

Regarding these claims, applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing to the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicants believe that claims 32, 33, 37 and 42 are allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

Also, dependant claims 8, 9, 22, 24-28, 30, 31, 34-36, 38-40, and 43 either currently depend, or have been amended herein to now depend, on one of these now allowable independent claims 32, 33, 37 or 42. Accordingly, these dependant claims should also now be in condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that this amendment be entered and that the case be passed to issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Attachment A to Amendment
(Redlined amendments to claims)**

2. (Cancelled) ~~A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage, the mechanism comprising:~~

~~a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the carriage of the printer;~~

~~a separate key element secured to said on-axis printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component;~~

~~at least one tab extending from the on-axis printer component, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the on-axis printer component; and~~

~~said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the on-axis printer component to be operably secured to the on-axis printer mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.~~

8. (Third Amended) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim [2]~~32~~, wherein said separate key element further includes a display surface for visually indicating a required characteristic of the on-axis printer component.

9. (Third Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 8, wherein said display surface has a unique shape, and further including a label displaying surface indicia thereon to indicate said required characteristic of the on-axis printer component and having said unique shape for being operably secured to said display surface.

21. (Cancelled) ~~A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer having a carriage, said mechanism comprising:~~

~~an on-axis printer component mounting portion secured to the carriage of the printer;~~

~~a key element secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion;~~

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~~adjacent to said on-axis printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the on-axis printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion.~~

22. (Third Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim [21]33, wherein said key element prevents similarly shaped on-axis printer components that have a different key code thereon from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

24. (Fourth Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim [21]33, wherein said defined key code is related to a desirable characteristic of said printer component and said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printer component.

25. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim [21]33, wherein said key element includes a mounting portion key element for operably engaging a mating key on said mounting portion.

26. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim [2]33, wherein said key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the required characteristic of said printer component.

27. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim [2]33, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink reservoir.

28. (Twice Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim [2]33, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink/printhead cartridge.

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29. (Cancelled) ~~A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer comprising:~~
~~a printhead mounting portion operably secured to the printer;~~
~~a separate key element secured to said printhead mounting portion, adjacent to said printhead;~~
~~at least one tab extending from the printhead, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the printhead; and~~
~~said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printhead to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printheads that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.~~

30. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printer component with a printer of claim [2]33, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

31. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim [2]33, wherein said on-axis printer component is a printhead.

32. (Amended) [The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage of claim 2, wherein said separate key element is]~~A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component with a printer having a carriage, the mechanism comprising:~~

~~a printer component mounting portion operably secured to the carriage of the printer;~~

~~a separate key element detachably secured [to the component mounting portion]to said on-axis printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said printer component;~~

~~at least one tab extending from the on-axis printer component, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the on-axis printer component; and~~

~~said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and~~

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aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the on-axis printer component to be operably secured to the on-axis printer mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printer components that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printer component mounting portion.

33. (Amended) [The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 21, wherein said key element is]A mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer having a carriage, said mechanism comprising:

an on-axis printer component mounting portion secured to the carriage of the printer;

a key element detachably secured to said on-axis printer component mounting portion, adjacent to said on-axis printer component, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the on-axis printer component with the defined key code to be operably secured to the on-axis printer component mounting portion.

34. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim [21]33, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

35. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim [21]33, wherein said on-axis printer component is an ink reservoir.

36. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of an on-axis printer component having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim [21]33, wherein said on-axis printer component is a printhead.

37. (Amended) [The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim 29, wherein said separate key element is]A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer comprising:

a printhead mounting portion operably secured to the printer;

a separate key element detachably secured to said printhead mounting portion,

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adjacent to said printhead:

at least one tab extending from the printhead, said at least one tab positioned and oriented in a defined and unique tab pattern thereby indicating a required characteristic of the printhead; and

said separate key element having at least one mating slot positioned and aligned to receive said at least one tab, thereby allowing the printhead to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion and preventing similarly shaped printheads that have a different tab pattern from being operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.

38. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim [29]37, wherein said printer is an inkjet printer.

39. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim [29]37, further including an on-axis ink reservoir in fluid communication with said printhead.

40. (Amended) The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead with a printer of claim [29]37, wherein said separate key element includes surface indicia thereon to visually indicate the desirable characteristic of said printhead.

~~41. (Cancelled) A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer, said mechanism comprising:~~

~~a printhead mounting portion secured to the printer;~~

~~a discrete key element secured to the printhead mounting portion, adjacent to said printhead, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component to allow the printhead with the defined key code to be operably secured to the printhead mounting portion.~~

42. (Amended) [The mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer of claim 41, wherein said discrete key element is] A mechanism for establishing compatibility of a printhead having a defined key code thereon with a printer, said mechanism comprising:

a printhead mounting portion secured to the printer;

a discrete key element detachably secured to the printer, adjacent to said

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~~printhead, said key element operably engaging the key code of the printer component
to allow the printhead with the defined key code to be operably secured to the
printhead mounting portion.~~